

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 IO-14

AID-20 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /141 W

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O R 111244Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3814

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCEUR

S E C R E T SANAA 1147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, YE, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQI PLOTTING AGAINST NORTH YEMEN

DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

REF: SANAA 1142 (NOTAL)

1. YARG PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER MUHAMMAD NU'MAN HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING DETAILS OF IRAQI-SUPPORTED PLOTTING AGAINST PRESENT YARG.

2. ON JUNE 5 YARG SECURITY AUTHORITIES DECIDED ARREST TWO SUSPECTED BA'ATHIS WHOM THEY HAD HAD UNDER SURVEILLANCE. ONE WAS A TEACHER, THE OTHER A MIDDLE-RANKING EMPLOYEE OF INFORMATION MINISTRY. BOTH RESISTED ARREST

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FOR REASONS THAT BECAME APPARENT AS SOON AS THEY WERE

SEARCHED. CONCEALED IN HIS CLOTHES, THE TEACHER WAS CARRYING SEVERAL SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO BA'ATH AND IRAQI ACTIVITY IN YAR AND PDRY.

3. MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT WAS REPORT OF MEETING WITH IRAQI PRESIDENT BAKR BY VISITING DELEGATION OF BA'ATHIS FROM NORTH YEMEN. IN THIS REPORT, IRAQI PRESIDENT IS QUOTED AT LENGTH ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS. IN PORTION RELATING TO IRAQI SUPPORT FOR A BA'ATHI TAKEOVER IN YAR, BAKR CRITICIZES BA'ATHI ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING. HE SAYS TAKEOVER CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED ONLY BY MILITARY COUP AND ELIMINATION OF PRESENT LEADERS. HE SUGGESTS LOYAL BA'ATHIS BE SENT TO IRAQ FOR APPROPRIATE TRAINING AND THEN BE INFILTRATED INTO ARMY TO WORK FOR AN EVENTUAL COUP. HE ADMONISHES HIS VISITORS THAT THEY MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING TIGHT CONTROL OVER AND DISCIPLINE AMONG CADRES ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN IRAQ AND INFILTRATED INTO MILITARY UNITS.

4. OTHER DOCUMENTS ATTEST LINKS BETWEEN BA'ATHI GROUPS IN NORTH YEMEN AND PDRY, AND REFLECT THEIR SHARED OBJECTIVE OF OVERTHROWING PRESENT YARG. ROLE OF IRAQI EMBASSY IN SANAA IN HANDLING CLANDESTINE FUNDS AND CORRESPONDENCE IS CLEAR. SO IS IRAQ'S SUPPORT OF FORMER YEMENI PRIME MINISTER MUHSIN AL-AYNI AS PRESIDENT OF YEMEN ONCE PRESIDENT IRYANI ELIMINATED. NOTHING IN THE DOCUMENTS, HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY IMPLICATES AL-AYNI IN COUP PLANNING.

5. DOCUMENTS DO NOT POINT TO INVOLVEMENT BY ANY SENIOR YAR OFFICIAL OR PERSONALITY, CIVILIAN OR MILITARY. HIGHEST RANKING PERSONALITY IMPLICATED IS THE SANAA MANAGER OF A FOREIGN-OWNED TRADING AND CONSTRUCTION FIRM (A. BESSE AND CO.), WHO HAS BEEN ARRESTED. ON CONTRARY, GENERAL PICTURE OF BA'ATHI ACTIVITY REFLECTS CONFUSION AND POOR ORGANIZATION AMONG COLLECTION OF MEN OF SMALL STATURE, DESPITE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT OF IRAQI GOVERNMENT AND ITS SANAA EMBASSY.

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6. IF USSR INVOLVED IN IRAQI SUPPORT OF CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN YEMEN, THIS IS NOT APPARENT FROM DOCUMENTS SEIZED.

7. NU'MAN INFORMED US THAT AS RESULT OF DELIBERATIONS WITH PRESIDENT BY CABINET AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP JUNE 10, HE PROCEEDING TO BEIRUT JUNE 11 TO BE JOINED THERE

JUNE 17 BY CHIEF OF STAFF MASWARI FOLLOWING LATTER'S OFTEN-
DELAYED OFFICIAL VISIT JORDAN THIS WEEK.
TWO WILL TRAVEL TO BAGHDAD JUNE 18. TRIP WILL BE ADVERTISED AS BEING FOR DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION.
NU'MAN'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO PRESENT COPIES
OF ALL SEIZED DOCUMENTS TO PRESIDENT BAKR. PRESIDENT
IRYANI PREFERS TO AVOID A COMPLETE DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH
IRAQ BUT HAS EMPOWERED NU'MAN TO SUGGEST THAT THIS
NOT TO BE RULED OUT UNLESS IRAQ CEASES TO
SUPPORT CONSPIRACY. OTHER POSSIBILITIES WHICH NU'MAN
AUTHORIZED TO SUGGEST ARE PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS IN AREA PRESS,
WITHDRAWAL OF YEMENI AMBASSADOR IN BAGHDAD, AND EXPULSION OF
SOME IRAQI EMB OFFS FROM SANAA.

8. COMMENTS FROM OTHER SOURCES WE HEAR REPORTS NOT
YET CONFIRMED OF WIDESCALE ARRESTS AROUND THE COUNTRY
OF KNOWN BA'ATHIS AND OTHER LEFTIST OPPONENTS OF PRESENT
GOVERNMENT. AFFAIR ITSELF IS BEING TIGHTLY HELD WITHIN
YARG AND HAS RECEIVED NO PUBLICITY AS YET. FONMIN ASNAG
WITH WHOM WE ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED MATTER, SAID ONE
WELCOME OUTCOME IS PRESIDENT NOW HEEDING THE WARNINGS
THAT DANGER TO HIS LIFE NOT CONFINED TO ADEN AND THAT
HE MUST TAKE HIS PERSONAL SECURITY MORE SERIOUSLY.

9. EMBASSY WILL SEEK TEXTS OF SEIZED DOCUMENTS AND
NAMES OF THOSE ARRESTED.
CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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